

Tilton-Northfield Fire & EMS Commissioners' Meeting

Meeting called by:	Commissioners	Date, Time:	March 30, 2006 at 18:00 to 19:15
Note taker:	Janine Vary	Place:	Center Street Station

Attendees: Comm. Tom Gallant, Comm. Bob Watson, Comm. Harold Harbour, Chief Steve Carrier, Deputy Mike Robinson, Treasurer Roland Seymour and Clerk Janine Vary. Absent: Capt. Brad Ober, Fire Prev.

Comm. Gallant opened meeting at 18:00 and welcomed Bob Watson to board of commissioners. Tom asked to vote a Chairman for fire commissioners. Harold motioned not to change, Bob seconded. Vote taken and all approved Comm. Gallant as Chairman for commissioners.

Minutes motioned by Harold and seconded by Bob. No changes. Minutes approved unanimously.

Treasurer's report. Roland had two reports one for operating budget and one for equipment and apparatus fund. Operating Budget is \$1,185,761. Tilton and Northfield have been sending monthly checks, so funding is going well. Do we want equipment and apparatus fund on accrual basis? Roland and Tom agreed to keep on accrual. Accrual basis is good for keeping track budget to actual. This way bills that are in-house and not paid yet are still accounted for in report. This is subject to change depending on what happens on the vote on Water Article on Monday night. Tom motioned to accept Treasurer's report Harold seconded. All voted to accept treasurer's report unanimously.

Fire prevention report to be put off until next month.

Old business

Fire Prevention ordinances: Chief addressed. They have to stand for 90 days before fees will go into effect – will be May 29, 2006.

Chief reported that new ambulance is in full service. Had some alternator noise in radio and that has been repaired. Old ambulance. Close bids on that on April 12. Chief hasn't received any bids at this time, has had some interest. Tom: if no bids by April 12, Tom might want to take down to White Farm. Harold: is it worth to offer it to someone? Chief doesn't think so. The box has to be refurbished on inside. Even as a trade-in, they didn't want it. Tom had also asked that question and got the same answer. Tom asked if it was OK with the body to do that. All commissioners agreed. Mike asked that all names be removed from it before shipping it down. Tom mentioned to Chief to get a work detail and take the names off it now.

Chief: Building committee: has not met therefore, no updates at this time. Tom asked Chief if we will stay with our building committee members. Chief spoke with Scott Hilliard and he is interested in meeting, but it hasn't happened yet. Scott was given permission to form a committee. Chief will poll current members and see if they want to continue.

Tom mentioned that Town of Tilton voted to establish a committee to review the needs of the Tilton PD. Committee has been put together and they will set guidelines to get company in to review the structure of police dept. now and project needs as it grows, including its building needs. Will report to the town next year. Tom, Charlie Hall, Katherine Dawson, Tom Cavanaugh, Bob Brown (citizen), Chief Kent Chapman and Capt. Owen Wellington are on that committee. Within next 2 weeks will start meeting. Tom will keep us informed of results.

Truck committee: we signed an agreement after March meeting. Do we want to pay money up front because we will save 3% on \$155,000, will save over a thousand dollars. Roland mentioned we might be getting 3% from the bank for interest. They will pay us 3% fixed. Chief doesn't feel putting the cash down gives any more leverage or quicker delivery. Tom thought the 3% was a good idea but now prime is up and there are two more hikes anticipated, (delivery on vehicle is by Dec.) Tom felt we should leave it in the account and let it accumulate interest. Tom said if they offered a better incentive, a 2% discount and they paid 3% interest on money, then that's better for us. Vehicle is on order. Decision made not to send money in up front.

2006 budget, nothing else to add right now. Tom asked Chief to update the board as to new hires. Chief said that interviews are scheduled for Tuesday, April 4. Had 20 applications. Have 8 scheduled to interview. Feels the candidates to be interviewed are well qualified. We have to look at the mix. Our officers are doing the interviews. Selection will be made based on their recommendations. He hopes to have 4 names. These are oral interviews, not written. Won't have to start the process all over if one we want refuses position.

Winn Fire Dept. has been discussed prior to meeting with attorney and next month will be able to make a public statement.

New business

Water contract: Tom asked Roland, as a commissioner for Water District, to comment on Monday's (4/3/06) meeting. Roland: they'll make a couple of brief presentations, description of company. Ken Money will give discussion of rate structure and feel fees are adequate and he will answer any questions. Rob Steady will address insurance issues. Tom: article will be read by moderator, Tom expects Roland to move it to the floor. Then Roland can address it first or he can defer the presentation to Ken Money or Rob Steady. Tom didn't feel it was something the fire commissioners could move to the floor. Roland just asked for a hand count to be taken versus voice vote. Bob asked what happens if the vote stays the way it is right now for the \$135,000. Where will money come from? Roland, we have a published rate per hydrant of 460 per hydrant per quarter. Private hydrants are charged 35% more. These rates were approved and given to Ken Money by PUC. They (new water district) will try to adopt the PUC rates as their own. \$2.5 to 3 million have been dedicated to fire district. They put in larger pipes, hydrants, larger pumps and auxiliary systems to kick in. They allowed water district to keep the public rate versus a district rate. Harold: in the past had told Ken Money about putting a 16" pipe in for exit 20. Harold had to go down to PUC with Ken to request the 16" pipe. Tom asked if cost may increase if we add hydrants. Most hydrants being added that are public hydrants. Tom; if we added 2 or 3 hydrants, the price of the water contract would not change. Roland mentioned he thought it was only 72 we are being charged for currently. Lowes has put it in their own hydrant, Jensen's has their own, J Jill owns the hydrant on Sanborn Road. Roland hopes to maintain the rates in existence. This way can go municipal. We are no longer controlled by PUC. The charges could be lowered. All numbers were considered at purchase and will keep status quo, just need time to evaluate. If article doesn't pass, Roland said he's not sure what would be done to offset the decrease. Tom doesn't feel it is wise to pay for water only if used. He feels important that meeting happen, an informed discussion to take place and then a vote. Tom: we had questions, concerns, reservations about paying 10% of budget to a private water company and not getting reciprocal treatment and met with road blocks. Now we have a newly formed water district, a municipality working with another. [at this point Chief Carrier had to leave meeting to assist with an emergency call.] Germane to rates, Tom asked whether water district has been formed to make a profit and if yes, what do they intend to do with profit or is it a cushion for down times. He hopes they will be able to have good conversations this coming year. Roland said they just did a budget and hope to break even. There hasn't been any profit for the Moneys' operating the water district. Tom: knew that they took on a big debt to do the upgrades at a high interest. Roland feels that the board will sit down with the fire district at some point. Tom: will bring up at next meeting to appoint a Commissioner and Chief to meet on a regular basis, even quarterly. Roland said he will work for cooperation. Bob: if water contract doesn't go through, it will affect the whole town. Mike: the property owner needs to know if hydrants are shut down it will affect their insurance—even though they don't live in the hydrant district. Bob said that that has to be brought up at this meeting so people vote accordingly.

Tom asked Gretchen Wilder if she had something for the water district. She had 2 different letters and distributed them to fire commissioners and Roland for Water District. One is for fire district to address and one is for the water district. Need to explain the cost for hydrants, etc. She hasn't noticed the fees. She hears the word "contract" but is not sure if one exists, the newspaper calls the water district owned by the "towns" and that should be clarified.

*Budget committee. Need to find out the names from Tilton and Northfield and a commissioner to serve. Harold will serve to represent the board of commissioners. Once they are established they will have to decide how they are going to function. They will need to review the budget. Different than a town. They should have a chairman and meet with Steve. Tom feels they won't start meeting until budget process begins for district in the Fall.

Truck committee: Mike feels that they have completed their tasks so they are not currently meeting until it gets closer to delivery time. Tom asked Bob to interface with Chief to update him with what has been ordered, how other things will be taken out of service. Mike will be glad to show Bob the drawings.

Tom motioned to pay bills. Harold seconded. Bills were paid.

Tom motioned for meeting to be adjourned. Harold seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

*Janine spoke with Ken Randall, Moderator, on Friday, March 31, 2006 and asked about Budget Committee. He indicated that he would only set up after the April 3, 2006 reconvened meeting for the District.

Next Meeting Date, Time, Place:

Thurs., May 4, 2006 at 18:00 at Center Street Station